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Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1955

No. 198

MICHAEL CALLIA AND HAROLD F. MILLS

versus

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

BENTLEY G. BYRNES,
BYRNES & WALLACE,
315 The California Co. Bldg.,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

GEORGE J. GULOTTA,
Pere Marquette Building,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

Counsel for Petitioners.

HAUSER PRINTING CO., INC., NEW ORLEANS

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versus

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

To the Honorables, the Chief Justice and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States:

Harold F. Mills and Michael Callia, petitioners herein, pray that a writ of certiorari be issued to review the final judgments and decrees of the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana, entered in Case No. 42,663 of that Court, entitled: *State of Louisiana vs. Harold F. Mills and Lena Vernaci*, and Case No. 42,664, entitled *State of Louisiana vs. Michael Callia and George Habeney*, affirming judgments of the Criminal District Court for the Parish of Orleans, wherein petitioners were found guilty of the crime of gambling as set out in Louisiana Revised

Statutes of 1950, Title 14, Section 90, and thereafter sentenced to pay a fine of $500.00 and serve one year in jail. Petitioners file a joint petition under the provisions of Rule 23 (5) of the Rules of this Court.

OPINIONS BELOW

The opinions below have not yet been published in any official reports; however, the opinions of the Supreme Court have been published at 86 So. 2d 895 and 86 So. (2d) 909. The opinions of the Supreme Court of Louisiana appear at Appendix A. The per curiam denial of rehearing in the Supreme Court of Louisiana appears as a minute entry in the transcript of the record docketed under the No. 196 in the case of Mills and No. 197 in the case of Callia of this Court. The transcript of the record in the lower Courts, as required by Rule 23, is not furnished with the within petition for the reason that the transcript docketed under the foregoing numbers in this Honorable Court is identical and for the further reason that no further copies of these transcripts are available.

JURISDICTION

The opinions, judgments and decrees of the Supreme Court of Louisiana were rendered on February 20, 1956.

Timely applications for rehearing were filed, which applications were denied by per curiam opinion dated March 26, 1956.

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under the provisions of Title 28, U. S. Code, Section 1257 (3).

The Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana is the highest Court in which a decision could be had.

QUESTIONS PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

Where evidence of a crime consists solely of compulsory disclosures made by a defendant in conformity with record keeping requirements of the Federal Act imposing wagering taxes, 65 Stat. 529, 26 U.S.C.A. Sec. 3285, et seq. and Louisiana Employment Security Law, La. Rev. Stat. of 1950, Title 23, Secs. 1471 to 1713, implementing the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, 68 A. Stat. 439, 26 U.S.C. 3301, may a conviction under a State Law making gambling a crime be sustained?

Where a State statute, enacted in cooperation with the Federal Government for carrying out a public purpose common to both, provides for compulsory disclosures and grants immunity from prosecution, such statute provides for indirect Federal grants of immunity similar to that provided by the Compulsory Testimony Act of 1893, as amended. The denial of both the privilege and the immunity in state tribunals constitutes a denial of rights as guaranteed by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Federal Constitution.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS INVOLVED

The constitutional provision involved is the Fifth Amendment which in part provides:

> " • • • nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, • • • ."

This amendment is made applicable to the States by the Fourteenth Amendment, which provides in part as follows:

> " • • • no State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privilege or immunities of

citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of rights, liberty, or property, without due process of law; * * *."

The provisions of the Louisiana Employment Security Law pertinent to the questions presented herein consist of Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 23, Section 1660 and 1663. The provisions of these sections are set out in Appendix B.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On October 22, 1954, petitioner, Mills' co-defendant, Lena Vernaci, was arrested by New Orleans Police officers at Municipal No. 1229 Simon Bolivar Street in the City of New Orleans. At the time of her arrest she was alone in a room wherein certain lottery paraphernalia was found. She was subsequently charged jointly with petitioner, Mills, with violation of Louisiana's gambling law, being Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 14, Section 90, in that the said Lena Vernaci and petitioner were engaged in operating a lottery at the time and place of the former's arrest.

Proof of petitioner, Mills', engaging in the activity complained of at the time and place of the said Lena Vernaci's arrest was adduced by the introduction of applications for Federal wagering tax stamps under the provisions of the law hereinabove cited, 65 Stat. 529, 26 USCA 4401. There was also introduced returns made under State law pertaining to the amount of wages paid agents and employees. The co-defendant, Lena Vernaci, appeared on the return as an employee of Mills.

On December 6, 1954, petitioner, Callia's, co-defendant, George Habeney, was arrested by New Orleans police

officers at No. 3703 Third Street in the City of New Orleans. He was arrested in a room at this address and in the room certain lottery paraphernalia was found and confiscated. He was subsequently charged jointly with petitioner, Callia, with violation of the State anti-gambling law as set out above in that both parties were operating a lottery at the time and place of the arrest aforesaid. Proof of petitioner, Callia's, complacency in connection with the crime charged was evidenced by his application for the Federal wagering tax stamp and the returns filed under the Louisiana Employment Security Act. Both the application for the wagering stamp and the Employment Security Act returns listed George Habeney as an employee of Michael Callia.

These records indicated that on the date in question, namely, October 22, 1954, with respect to Mills, and December 6, 1954, with respect to Callia, and prior and subsequent thereto, the defendants, Lena Vernaci, and George Habeney, were employed by petitioners, Mills and Callia. The disclosures likewise indicated that the petitioners were operating lotteries and that their co-defendants were acting as their agents. In the absence of the disclosures as contained in the foregoing records, the proceedings are completely devoid of any evidence that petitioners were in any way associated with their co-defendants, Vernaci and Habeney.

FEDERAL QUESTIONS IN THE COURTS BELOW

1. *In the Trial Court.*

During the course of the trials in the Court of first instance the prosecution introduced into evidence applications for wagering stamps which applications were

made to the Federal Government under the provisions of the Federal Wagering Tax Act, *Supra*. The applications contained the defendants' names, their principal places of business and a list of employees or agents, one of whom was co-defendant of each petitioner, Lena Vernaci and George Habeney. There were also identified by witnesses certain returns showing the amounts of wagers, together with a computation of the tax due the Federal Government, in accordance with the same Act. The disclosures pertaining to wages and the computation of tax covered the periods or the dates set out in the respective bills of information. Following identification of these documents, the prosecution sought to introduce them into evidence. At this time the defendants objected to the introduction of the documents, claiming the privilege against self-incrimination under the provisions of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Federal Constitution. (Mills transcript No. 196 of this Court, page 265, Callia transcript No. 197 of this Court, page 244).

Upon the rendition of the verdicts by the Criminal District Court for the Parish of Orleans, finding the defendants guilty of the crime charged motions for new trials, in conformity with Louisiana's procedural requirements, were filed. The pleas of privilege and immunity were reiterated and the motions were subequently denied. In each instance, bills of exception were reserved in conformity with Louisiana's Rules of Practice in criminal proceedings. (Mills transcript No. 196 of this Court, page 74, 78, 97, 115, Callia transcript No. 197 of this Court, pages 74, 96, 99.)

2. ***In the State Supreme Court.***

Following the imposition of sentence which included the assessment of fines in the sum of $500.00 and sen-

tences to jail for a term of one year, motions for appeal were filed and perfected. Formal bills of exceptions were filed of record, reiterating these objections. These bills of exception were properly presented to the Supreme Court of Louisiana and passed upon in the decision. See decision Appendix A.

Timely applications for rehearing were filed in conformity with Louisiana's Practice and Procedure, which applications were subsequently denied.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

The instant cases recall to mind the admonition of a member of this Honorable Court who once stated that even slight deviation from legal modes of procedure may eventually result in illegitimate and unconstitutional practices. See dissenting opinion Mr. Justice Frankfurter in *Shapiro vs. U. S.*, 335 U.S. 1, at p. 69, 68 S. Ct. 1375, at p. 1410.

The instant case presents to the Court convictions under a State criminal statute, which convictions are based entirely upon admissions by defendants, which admissions they were compelled to make under a statute requiring record keeping and record production.

The prosecution in which these records were produced had no bearing on any laws which required the production and keeping of the records. The administration of the laws compelling the disclosures were completely foreign to the outcome of the proceedings in which the records were used.

State Exhibits 8 and 9 in the Mills record and 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 in the Callia record were records

which were compiled and furnished the Administrator of the State Employment Security Act and which had been furnished under a statute compelling their production and likewise granting immunity for disclosures made in connection with the production of the returns. The compulsion and the granting of immunity are contained in the pertinent sections of the Statute appearing in Appendix B.

The Louisiana Employment Security Act, *Supra*, and the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, now 68 A. Stat. 439, 26 USCA 3301, which Act was originally adopted as the Social Security Act in 1935, 42 USCA 201—1305, are coextensive. They constitute cooperative legislative effort seeking to obtain a public purpose common to both. *Carmichael vs. Southern Coal & Coke Co.*, 301 U.S. 495, 57 S. Ct. 868. A mere reading of the statutes will indicate that they are indispensable to each other. Thus, the Federal Government has released in part its pre-emption over interstate commerce by requiring that taxpayers so engaged are subjected to the cooperative State Law. See 26 USCA 3305. Likewise the Federal Government has allowed its own instrumentalities to be so taxed by virtue of the cooperative State Law. See 26 USCA 3305 (b). All funds collected under both State and Federal laws are paid into the Unemployment Trust Fund maintained and administered by the Federal Government and withdrawals therefrom are governed by the terms and conditions as set out in the Federal legislation. 26 USCA 3304, 42 USC 110 (a). In conformity with the same tenet the State law likewise provides for cooperation with other State Agencies and with Federal Agencies for the purpose of promoting uniformity in the application of this Social Security law throughout the land. Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 23, Secs. 1664, 1665, 1666. The

State law likewise provides for the expenditure of funds and the administration of the law in conformity with the dictates of the Federal statute. Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 23, Sec. 1511. Likewise all funds received by the agencies are deposited in accordance with the dictates of the Federal Statute. Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 23, Sec. 1492.

A reading of the foregoing provisions of both the State and Federal law will show conclusively that one is indispensable to the other. Since the record-keeping requirements as provided by Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 23, Section 1660, are necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of the Louisiana law, these requriements are likewise necessary to the enforcement of the Federal law. It is respectfully submitted that under the circumstances the record-keeping provisions and the denial of privileges constitute Federal enactments just as binding as if passed by the Congress of the United States. Thus, the denial of the immunities as provided by the Louisiana Act constituted the denial of rights protected by the Fifth Amendment in the event the immunities afforded by the law of Louisiana were not coterminous with the privilege denied. The actions of the State are obviously intended to effectuate the policies of the Federal Act and when acting in concert with the Federal Government so as to attain a common purpose, the actions of the State are as binding upon the Federal Government as if the Secretary of Labor himself had required the production of the documents in question.

As has been stated hereinabove, during the course of the prosecution of these defendants the State introduced into evidence certain applications made under the provisions of the Federal Wagering Tax Act, 68 A Stat. 525, 26 USCA 4401 et seq., and also returns made under the

provisions of that Act showing the amount of wages collected by the defendants and the computation of the tax due the Federal Government under the provisions of law. The Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana, as will appear from its opinion set out in Appendix A, held that no rights of the defendants under the provisions of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution, were denied in allowing the records in evidence. The Court relied upon the rulings of this Honorable Court in *U. S. vs. Kahriger*, 345 U.S. 22, 73 S. Ct. 510, *Irving vs. People*, 347 U.S. 128, 74 S. Ct. 381, and *Lewis vs. U.S.*, 348 U.S. 419, 75 S. Ct. 415. While this Honorable Court did indicate in both *Kahriger* and *Lewis* that the disclosure required under the Federal Wagering Tax Act did not deny an individual the privileges and immunities guaranteed him under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, it is respectfully submitted that they have no application to the instant proceedings. In both instances the parties involved had not made any disclosures and were therefore not confronted with prosecution for violation of laws wherein the disclosures would have been pertinent and possibly incriminating. The case of *Irving vs. People, Supra*, relying upon *Kahriger* and *Lewis*, held that the introduction of the application for the gambling stamp did not deny the privilege in a prosecution for violation of a California gambling statute. Certainly both the *Kahriger* and *Lewis* cases have no application; however, it is conceded that the *Irving* case is applicable. It is further submitted by the petitioners that the Court should at this time re-consider its decision in the case of *Irving vs. People* and re-examine the very serious implications involved in that decision.

The entire basis for the holding that the disclosure required of the Federal Wagering Tax Act as being not

violative of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution is based upon the ability of the applicant to make a choice at the threshold before any illegal act has been committed. See *Lewis vs. U. S.*, 348 U.S. 419, at p. 422, 75 S. Ct. 415, at page 418.

The fallacy in the reasoning in this case is readily apparent when it is considered that the Court is actually holding that a party contemplating commission of a crime must confess his premeditation, which premeditation in many instances is an essential element of a crime.

The constitutional prohibition against self-incrimination has never been construed to provide that a party cannot be compelled to be a witness against himself **only** as to the entire crime, but may be compelled to confess and bear witness against himself to certain acts which when coupled with others would constitute a crime. *Blau v. United States*, 340 U.S. 159, 71 S. Ct. 223.

The compulsory incrimination of an applicant for Federal Wagering Stamp is no less compulsory nor less incriminating because the applicant has the opportunity of deciding at the threshold not to engage in the illicit activity. Certainly the perpetrator of any crime has that same choice. Yet no Court, recognizing the privilege against self-incrimination, would force an accused to testify as to his intentions and actions leading up to a crime on the ground that such testimony would not contravene his privileges and immunities. Certainly this Court would strike down any conviction based upon admissions of intentions or activities which an accused was compelled to make up to the time of the crime even though he failed or was not compelled to confess to the crime itself. It is this freedom of choice at the threshold which is the foundation of all criminal justice and the

desire to exact penalties for crimes against society. The enactment of the criminal statute with its penalty provisions has up to now been considered sufficiently deterrant so as to induce the would-be violator that in the exercise of his choice he should pursue the lawful course. With the passage of such acts as the Federal Wagering Tax Act and all such other laws which compel, in the course of their administration, the keeping and production of records, there has been added to the inducement of punishment in criminal statutes the requirement that the wrong-doer give evidence against himself.

In addition to the disclosures to the Federal Government under the compulsory provisions of the Federal Wagering Stamp Act, the State, during the course of the prosecution, introduced tax returns which constituted disclosures provided under the State Employment Security Act, *Supra*. As has been stated hereinabove, the defendants timely raised objections to the introduction of these documents and pleaded the privileges and immunities afforded them under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution.

The Legislature of Louisiana and the Congress of the United States deem that in order to properly enforce the Unemployment Compensation provisions of their social security laws, the Administrator must have ready access to information concerning the names of employees and the amount of wages paid them. For the purpose of securing this information they deem it advisable that the privileges against self-incrimination should be denied the citizen so that no impediment would stand in the way of complete disclosure. Probably the first instance wherein the privilege was considered an impediment to the administration of the governmental regulations resulted in

the passage of the Compulsory Testimony Act of 1893. 27 Stat. 443, 49 U.S.C. 46, 47, 48.

In *Councilman vs. Hitchcock*, 142 U.S. 547, the disclosures as required by the Interstate Commerce Law and the immunities provided thereunder were found not to be co-extensive and in view of the fact that immunity was not absolute, it was not sufficient under the test of the constitutional privilege. Thereafter the provisions were re-enacted so that the Court eventually held that the immunities provided by the Act were co-extensive with the privilege afforded by the Fifth Amendment and that therefore it was constitutional. *Brown vs. Walker*, 161 U.S. 591.

With the recognition by the Courts that through statutory enactment of immunity provisions, the privilege granted by the Fifth Amendment could be avoided, the Congress passed numerous acts wherein the keeping and production of records was compelled. The effect of these laws was to require the individual subject to the law to furnish its Administrator with proof of his compliance or non-violation thereof. Through provisions of licensing and record-keeping the administrator was thereby furnished with a convenient mode for ferreting out the violators by having the violator come to him with records and disclosures rather than seeking out and finding him. In *Shapiro vs. U. S.*, 335 U.S. 1, 68 Sup. Ct. 1375, the defendant was charged with violation of the Emergency Price Control Act, 56 Stat. 23, as amended, 50 USC App. (Supp. V, 1946) Sec. 901. Under the provisions of the Act he was called upon to produce records of transactions which were eventually produced after he had pleaded the constitutional privilege. The Court held that the provisions of the Emergency Price Control Act compelling dis-

closures were constitutional, since the provisions of the Act which compel the disclosure provided immunity, which immunity was construed "as coterminous with what otherwise would have been the privilege of the person concerned". 335 U.S. at page 19, 68 S. Ct. at page 1385. The quotation as set out above is quoted from the decision of the Court as written by the late Justice Holmes in *Heike vs. U. S.*, 227 U.S. 131.

In the *Shapiro* case the Court noted in the majority opinion that since no valid privilege could exist as to the records in question, since the entire privilege afforded by the Fifth Amendment had been superseded by the statute, the record was properly ordered produced. However, as was noted, the record was called for and ordered produced in the course of the administration of the statute which compelled its production. It constituted a "public record" open for public inspection and to be used in the administration of the statute and the privilege was no bar to its production only because immunity as against all other matters was afforded under the ruling enunciated in *Councilman vs. Hitchcock*, 142 U.S. 547. See 335 U.S. at page 28, 68 S. Ct. at page 1390.

As was noted by Mr. Justice Frankfurter in the dissenting opinion, the ruling of the majority was such that perhaps the Fifth Amendment would be no barrier to the utilization of the records in a prosecution under another law. 334 U.S. at page 54, 68 S. Ct. at page 1402. However, in answer to this the Court found that as long as the regulation was constitutional and the record-keeping requirements were reasonable, the production of the records for this purpose alone would not contravene the constitutional privilege against self-incrimination. 335 U.S. at page 32 et seq., 68 S. Ct. at page 1391 et seq.

From a reading of the *Shapiro* case it is obvious that the State Court went much further with respect to the "public record" doctrine than has ever been ventured heretofore. If the State Courts were correct in that the public documents were open to use by all public officials in the performance of all public functions, then the immunity which the statute purports to afford was meaningless. The immunity required by *Councilman vs. Hitchcock, supra* and the Fifth Amendment was immunity against prosecutions for crimes against the State and did not provide for immunity against public ridicule, scorn and embarrassment. See *Brown vs. Walker*, 161 U.S. 591.

At the outset, therefore, the record-keepers immunity is limited to public prosecution. Their availability not only to the prosecutor but as evidence in criminal proceedings nullifies the only immunity left. If the ruling of the State Court of Louisiana is correct, and if that Court was correct in holding that records disclosed under compulsion could be used in criminal prosecution for any activity divulged therein, then it must be conceded that since no immunity existed, no privilege existed at the outset. This Court has noted that in the absence of a privilege there is no need for the immunity. Were this reasoning to be valid then it would have to be conceded that once the activities of an individual became subjected to a regulatory law requiring record-keeping and production, by virtue of the statute regulating his activity he would be denied his privilege against self-incrimination, even though his disclosures may not give evidence of violation of the regulatory act. If such is the law the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution is meaningless.

The instant application is of compelling importance, not only to your petitioners but to every business man

who, during the course of his business under one or another of the innumerable Federal Regulations, is required to produce records of his activities. If the ruling is allowed to stand the privilege granted by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Federal Constitution have been effectively superseded without the passing of a constitutional amendment.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons it is respectfully submitted that a writ of certiorari should be directed herein to the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana and that in due course the issues be passed upon by this Honorable Court.

Respectfully submitted,

.....

Bentley G. Byrnes,
Of Counsel for Petitioners.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that printed copies of the foregoing, together with the Appendix, have been served upon the Attorney General for the State of Louisiana, the Honorable Jack Gremillion, and the District Attorney for the Parish of Orleans, the Honorable Leon D. Hubert, by placing copies of same in the United States Mail, directed to them at their offices in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and New Orleans, Louisiana, respectively, postage prepaid.

New Orleans, Louisiana, June ....., 1956.

.....

Bentley G. Byrnes

APPENDIX A

Monday Feb. 20, 1956

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

No. 42,663

STATE OF LOUISIANA
versus
HAROLD F. MILLS and LENA VERNACI

Appeal from the Criminal District Court, Parish of Orleans, Section "E"; the Honorable J. Bernard Cocke, Judge.

HAWTHORNE, J.

Harold F. Mills and Lena Vernaci were convicted of the crime of gambling denounced by Article 90 of the Criminal Code. Mills was sentenced to pay a fine of $500.00 and to serve one year in the parish prison, and in default of the payment of fine to serve six additional months. Lena Vernaci was sentenced to pay a fine of $305.00 and to serve six months in the parish prison, and in default of the payment of fine to serve three additional months.

For a proper understanding of the numerous bills of exception reserved we shall briefly summarize some of the facts in this case. In the early morning of October 22, 1954, Lena Vernaci was arrested by two police officers while she was alone in a room that she rented in a house at 1229 Simon Bolivar Street in New Orleans.

At the time of the arrest the room contained a stove, table, chair, and light, but no other furniture. The arresting officers seized a large amount of lottery paraphernalia lying on the table, including two lottery lists giving the numbers drawn from the lottery wheel on Thursday, October 21, by a lottery company conducting lotteries called "Bag of Silver" and "Bag of Gold"; receipts to be issued to players; and record sheets showing plays or bets made by various players, some of which bore the date of October 22. During the trial a woman named Hattie Tucker who lived at 1229 Simon Bolivar Street testified without objection that Lena Vernaci had used the room at that address for "writing lottery". Also, testimony and exhibits were offered by the State to prove that Harold Mills was the owner and operator of Gold and Silver, a lottery company, and that Lena Vernaci was a lottery vendor for Mills on the date charged in the information.

Article 90 of the Criminal Code, R.S. 14:90, provides:

> "Gambling is the intentional conducting, or directly assisting in the conducting, as a business, of any game, contest, lottery, or contrivance whereby a person risks the loss of anything of value in order to realize a profit.
>
> " * * * * * * "

The pertinent part of the bill of information charging these defendants with violating this statute reads:

> "Harold Mills and one Lena Vernaci * * * did commit the crime of gambling as defined by R.S. 14:90 in that each did unlawfully and intentionally conduct and directly assist in the conducting, as a business, at 1229 Simon Bolivar in the City of New Orleans, of a lottery, whereby a person risked the loss of a thing of value in order to

realize a profit * * * ."

Mills and Vernaci each filed an application for a bill of particulars. When their applications were denied by the trial judge, each defendant reserved a bill of exception, and Vernaci also reserved bills to the overruling by the trial judge of her demurrer and motion to quash the information. These bills are designated as Mills Bill No. 1 and Vernaci Bills Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

In their motions for a bill of particulars these defendants asked the State to tell each defendant whether he or she was charged with conducting and operating a lottery, or only with assisting in the operation of a lottery; whether lottery operations were conducted at 1229 Simon Bolivar Street by each; what lottery operations each performed or took part in; where the lottery drawings took place; and other details with reference to the lottery operations.

The answer of the State, which the trial court deemed sufficient, informed the defendants that each was charged in the bill of information with conducting **and** assisting in conducting a lottery under the authority of R.S. 15:222, and that they were both charged as principals under the provisions of R.S. 14:24.

R.S. 15:222 provides that several distinct offenses, disjunctively enumerated in the same criminal statute, may be cumulated in the same count when it appears that they are connected with the same transaction and constitute but one act, but in that case they must be charged conjunctively. Under R.S. 14:24 all persons concerned in the commission of a crime, whether present or absent, and whether they directly commit the act constituting the offense, aid and abet in its commission, or

directly or indirectly counsel or procure another to commit the crime, are principals.

The primary function of a bill of particulars is to fully inform the accused of the nature and cause of the accusation against him so that he can adequately prepare his defense. However, a defendant in a criminal case is not entitled to particulars as a matter of right. The granting or refusal of such a bill is within the sound discretion of the trial judge, and his ruling will not be disturbed unless it is manifestly erroneous. Arts. 235 and 288, La. Code Cr. Proc., R.S. 15:235, 288; *State v. Labat*, 226 La. 201, 75 So. 2d 333; *State v. Simpson*, 216 La. 212, 43 So. 2d 585; *State v. Poe*, 214 La. 606, 38 So. 2d 359; *State v. Sheffield*, 201 La. 1055, 10 So. 2d 894; *State v. Ezell*, 189 La. 151, 179 So. 64.

In criticizing the denial by the trial judge of her motion for a bill of particulars, appellant Vernaci in brief in this court for the first time urges that she was entitled to know before trial the kind of lottery involved in the charge against her. We note, however, that she did not seek this information in her motion for a bill of particulars, and even if she had, it would be without merit. The word "lottery" as used in Article 90 of the Criminal Code and in the bill of information in this case is neither vague nor indefinite. It is found in our state Constitution, Article 19, Section 8, which provides that "Lotteries and the sale of lottery tickets are prohibited in this State". Also, it is a commonplace word, and every layman knows exactly what is meant by the term "lottery".

The other information sought by these defendants in their application for particulars was an effort on their

part to obtain through this bill the evidence which the expected to offer on the trial of the case. It goes without saying that such a motion cannot be used for this purpose. The State is not required to reveal in advance of the trial the facts on which it will rely in seeking a conviction.

We think that by the bill of information these defendants had been sufficiently informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against them to be able adequately to prepare their defense, and that therefore the trial judge did not commit error in denying their motion for particulars. Likewise there is no merit in Vernaci's demurrer and motion to quash. In these motions she erroneously contends that the bill of information filed against her is vague and indefinite and does not inform her of the nature and cause of the accusation against her. The information in the instant case charges the precise gambling operation in which these defendants were allegedly involved, that is—a lottery; it gives the exact date of the offense and the house number of the place where the offense took place; and in addition it tracks the language of Article 90 of the Criminal Code. Thus it fully meets the test which this court has laid down for determining the sufficiency of an information, that is: It fully informs the court of the offense charged so that it might properly regulate the evidence sought to be introduced; it informs the accused of the nature and cause of the offense with which he is being charged; and it is sufficient on its face to support a plea of former jeopardy. *State v. Scheuering*, 226 La. 660, 76 So. 2d 921, and authorities therein cited.

Mills Bills Nos. 2, 3, 5, 8, and 12 were submitted to this court without oral argument or discussion in brief,

and without citation of authorities. Under this state of facts we would be jusified in considering these bills abandoned, and probably will do so under similar circumstances in the future. In the instant case, however, we have examined each of these bills and find no merit in any of them.

Mills Bill No. 4, is not mentioned or discussed in brief filed by him in this court, and apparently this bill has been abandoned. It was reserved in connection with certain questions propounded to a witness the State was seeking to qualify as an expert on lottery operations, and to the ruling of the judge permitting this witness to testify as an expert. It is well settled that the trial judge determines whether witnesses offered as experts are entitled to be heard in that capacity, and his ruling will not be disturbed on appeal where no error appears. Art. 466, La. Code Cr. Proc., R.S. 15:466; *State v. Carter*, 217 La. 547, 46 So. 2d 897; *State v. Nicolosi*, 228 La. 65, 81 So. 2d 771.

Mills Bills 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 16 were reserved to the trial judge's permitting the State to file in evidence over the defendant's objection State Exhibits 8 through 14.

Exhibits 8 and 9 are quarterly reports made to the Louisiana Department of Labor, Division of Employment Security, pursuant to the provisions of the Louisiana Unemployment Compensation Law, R.S. 23:1471-1713. Exhibit 8 is for the third quarter of the year 1954, and Exhibit 9 is for the fourth quarter of that calendar year. These reports are made on printed forms and show the employer's name and business, and give the names, social security numbers, and wages of employees. Both of these

documents are quarterly reports for Harold F. Mills, owner of "Gold and Silver", and list Lena Vernaci as one of his employees. According to the testimony in this case, these reports were prepared by an accountant employed by Mills, under Mills' direction and by his authority.

Exhibits 10 through 13 are tax returns and applications for registry made to the federal government pursuant to the Federal Wagering Tax Law, 26 USCA 4401 et seq., for the period July 19, 1954, to June 30, 1955, which period of time of course included the date of the offense charged in these proceedings. These returns show that the taxpayer is Harold F. Mills and that his business is "Gold and Silver", and are signed by Mills. These returns list Lena Vernaci as one of the employees of Mills. The returns show that Mills was engaged in the business of accepting wagers on his own account, and show the amount of wagers accepted during each month of the period covered and the amount of tax due to the federal government.

Exhibit 14 is a certificate by the custodian of the original returns stating that the photostats of these returns are true copies.

The federal wagering tax law pursuant to which these returns were made requires any person engaged in gambling to pay a $50.00 occupational tax, file a registration form listing his name and address and those of his employees, and pay taxes on the gross amount of wagering done. See 26 USCA 4411, 4412, 4401.

The contention was made in the lower court that by filing these state and federal reports Mills was granted

an implied promise of immunity from prosecution for gambling. In brief filed in this court Mills does not urge this contention, evidently because there is not merit in it. There is nothing in the law under which these documents were filed that carries any implication that compliance will be accompanied by an immunity from prosecution. Moreover, the federal statute specifically provides that the payment of any tax imposed thereby shall not be held to exempt any person from any penalty provided by a law of any state. See 26 USCA 4422. See also *Irvine v. California*, 347 U.S. 128, 74 S. Ct. 381, 98 L. Ed. 561.

Appellant argues at length in brief in this court, however, that these documents were improperly admitted in evidence because the use of such evidence in a criminal case violates the constitutional rights and guarantees against self-incrimination afforded by the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article 1, Section 11, of the Louisiana Constitution.[1]

This contention has been fully answered by the United States Supreme Court in *United States v. Kahriger*, 345 U.S. 22, 73 S. Ct. 510, 97 L. Ed. 754; *Irvine v. California*, 347 U.S. 128, 74 S. Ct. 381, 98 L. Ed. 561, and *Lewis v. United States*, 348 U.S. 419, 75 S. Ct. 415, 99 L. Ed. 475.

In the *Kahriger* case it was contended that the wagering tax is unconstitutional because it is a denial of the privilege against self-incrimination guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment to the federal Constitution. In answer the Supreme Court of the United States said:

[1] It is the view of the writer that the immunity for self-incrimination granted by the provisions of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution cannot be claimed by defendant in a proceeding in a state court. See dissenting opinion in *State v. Dominguez*, 228 La. 284, 82 So. 2d 12.

> "Assuming that respondent can raise the self-incrimination issue, that privilege has relation only to past acts, not to future acts that may or may not be committed. 8 Wigmore (3d ed., 1940) Sec. 2259(c). If respondent wishes to take wagers subject to excise taxes under section 3285, *supra*, he must pay an occupational tax and register. Under the registration provisions of the wagering tax, appellee is not compelled to confess to acts already committed, he is merely informed by the statute that in order to engage in the business of wagering in the future he must fulfill certain conditions."

In the *Irvine* case the accused was prosecuted in a California state court for violating the state gambling law. Against objection by the accused a federal wagering tax stamp bearing his name and address and his return to the collector under the federal law were introduced into evidence. The accused was convicted, and the United States Supreme Court granted certiorari. The conviction was affirmed. In the course of the opinion the court said:

> "Upon his arrest, petitioner had on his person a federal wagering tax stamp bearing his name, home address and the date, November 5, 1951. Against objection, it and other documentary evidence from the office of the United States Collector of Internal Revenue was received to show petitioner's application for the wagering tax stamp and his return to the Collector under the federal law. These documents were made pursuant to the Federal Act imposing wagering taxes, 65 Stat. 529, 26 U.S.C. (Supp. V) Sec. 3285 *et seq.*, held constitutional by this Court in *United States v. Kahriger*, 345 U.S. 22. The claim is made that it was error as a matter of federal law to admit this evidence and also that payment of the federal tax resulted in a federal license to conduct the wager-

ing business. This statute does not make such records or stamps confidential or privileged but, on the contrary, exrpessly requires the name and place of business of each such taxpayer to be made public. 53 Stat. 395, 26 U.S.C. sec. 3275. Petitioner's contentions are without substance or merit in view of the express provisions of the statute that payment of the tax does not exempt any person from penalty or punishment by state law and does not authorize commencement or continuance of such business. 53 Stat. 395, 26 U.S.C. sec. 3276; 65 Stat. 531, 26 U.S.C. (Supp. V) Sec. 3292."

In a footnote to this case the court commented:

"Petitioner's question number 2, which challenges the State's use of 'compelled evidence' obtained under the federal wagering statute is answered in *United States v. Kahriger* * * * ."

The *Lewis* case, decided in 1955, is particularly in point. An information was filed in a municipal court of the District of Columbia charging Lewis with violation of the federal wagering tax law. The United States Supreme Court held on certiorari that the act as applied to petitioner in the District of Columbia did not contravene the Fifth Amendment's prohibition against compulsory self-incrimination. In the course of this opinion it was stated:

"If petitioner desires to engage in an unlawful business, he does so only on his own volition. The fact that he may elect to pay the tax and make the prescribed disclosures required by the Act is a matter of his choice. There is nothing compulsory about it, and, consequently, there is nothing violative of the Fifth Amendment. If he does not pay the occupational tax, proceeds to accept wagers, and is prosecuted therefor, as in this case, he cannot be compelled to testify and may

> claim his privilege. The only compulsion under the Act is that requiring the decision which would-be gamblers must make at the threshold. They may have to give up gambling, but there is no constitutional right to gamble. If they elect to wager, though it be unlawful, they must pay the tax."

In support of their position appellants cite and rely on *Boynton v. State*, 75 So. 2d 211, decided by the Supreme Court of Florida in 1954. The Florida Supreme Court, however, decided that case before the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the *Lewis* case, *supra*, and made no mention of the *Irvine* case.

Of course the United States Supreme Court in the above cases was interpreting the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution and dealing with returns made to the U. S. Treasury Department under federal law. However, the reasoning used in these three cases is applicable here, and we are of the opinion that the introduction in evidence in the instant case of the quarterly reports made by Mills to the Louisiana Department of Labor, and of the federal wagering tax returns in no way violated defendants' privilege against self-incrimination guaranteed to them by Article 1, Section 11, of our state Constitution. See 14 Am. Jur., "Criminal Law", Secs. 144 and 155.

It is also argued in this court by counsel for appellants that these state and federal reports were improperly admitted in evidence because they are privileged and confidential.

Since it is the duty of every person to give all available evidence to a court, the privilege not to give testi-

mony or to keep documentary evidence out of court is always strictly construed. See Wigmore, Evidence, v. 8, sec. 2285 (3rd ed. 1940). In Louisiana privileges are ordinarily granted by statute. See, e.g., R.S. 15:461 (husband and wife privilege); R.S. 15:476 (physician-patient privilege).

As to the state records, appellants contend that their privilege is granted by R.S. 23:1660, which is a part of the law requiring that these reports be filed. The clause of this setcion upon which appellants rely provides:

> " * * * Information thus obtained, or obtained from any individual pursuant to the administration of this Chapter except to the extent necessary for the proper administration thereof, shall be held confidential and shall not be published or be open to public inspection (other than to public employees in the performance of their public duties) in any manner revealing the individual's or employing unit's identity * * * ."

The trial judge in his per curiam says:

> "It will be noted that the statute excepts **'public employees in the performance of their public duties'** from those against whom the prohibition of disclosure is aimed.
>
> "Certainly the District Attorney of the Parish of Orleans, is a **'public employee'**. In the use of these exhibits in the present case, he was engaged in the performance of his **'public duties'**."

Although the statute expressly provides that information given in the reports and returns is to be held confidential and shall not be published or open to public inspection, we think, as did the trial judge, that the district attorney in the performance of his public duties falls within the exception provided in the statute. As

we have heretofore pointed out, the privilege to keep documentary evidence out of court is to be strictly construed, and in the absence of an express and clear provision in a statute giving this privilege it will not be recognized. An example of such a clear and explicit provision is R.S. 22:1120(B). That statute makes any communication from an insurer to the Secretary of State a privileged communication which "shall not be used in evidence in any court action or proceeding". See also R.S. 15:461; 15:475; 15:476; 15:477. There is no such provision in the statute upon which the appellants rely, and therefore they have no privilege.

The State in brief informs us that the purpose of the provisions of R.S. 23:1660 is perfectly clear when this section is read as a whole, saying:

> " * * * The State wishes to protect employers and their employees from intermeddlers or competitors who would seek to use public records for their own private purposes. On the other hand the State wishes to make the records usable by public officials for public purposes. That is exactly what the act accomplishes in clear terms."

Appellants point out no federal statute providing that the federal tax returns are confidential and privileged, and we know of none. On the contrary, it appears that these returns are open to public inspection under the provisions of 26 USCA 4401 et seq.

Another objection made by appellants to the offering in evidence of these documents is that they are in substance confessions or admissions containing inculpatory statements and as such were improperly admitted in evidence without the proper foundation's being laid for their admissibility. In short, appellants contend that be-

fore these documents could be legally introduced in evidence, the State was obliged to show that they were freely and voluntarily given under the provisions of Article 451 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the jurisprudence of this court.

The tax returns and reports filed in evidence by the State in this case are required by law to be made to a governmental agency to provide the agency with suitable information of transactions which are subject to governmental regulation. They cannot be considered confessions or admissions containing inculpatory statements as these terms are used in Article 1, Section 11, of the Louisiana Constitution, Article 451 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and in the jurisprudence of this court dealing with incriminating statements for which a predicate must be laid before their admission in evidence.

As said above, the United State Supreme Court has reasoned that the constitutional prohibition against self-incrimination is not applicable to such documents. See *Kahriger*, *Irvine*, and *Lewis cases*, *supra*. Under that reasoning we hold that the constitutional provision prohibiting the use of confessions unless freely and voluntarily made is likewise without application to such evidence.

It was not the intention of the drafters of the Constitution or the Criminal Code of this state to require that quasi-public records such as these, filed voluntarily with a governmental agency pursuant to law, must be affirmatively shown to have been freely and voluntarily given before being introduced in evidence. In other words, we hold that the provisions of the Constitution and statutes of this state requiring the predicate for the

admissibility of a confession to be first laid are without application to the documents in the instant case.

Appellants also objected to the admissibility of these documents because they relate to dates other than that of the offense charged in the information. They make no argument in support of this objection in brief. This is understandable, as the objection was trivial. The crime here charged is gambling as a business, and this is a continuing offense. The documents were relevant to establish this fact. See *infra*.

Appellants also objected to the admissibility of the federal tax reports on the ground that since they were photostats of the originals, they were not the best evidence. No argument is made in brief to rationalize this objection, and indeed none could be made. The State points out, and the trial judge tells us in his per curiam, that the original records were not available under federal regulations. The documents offered, however, were certified by the custodian of the originals, an officer of the United States Treasury. Moreover these photostatic copies were compared with the originals, and there was testimony to show that they were identical. Such photostatic copies were the best evidence available, and consequently were admissible under Article 436 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, R.S. 15:436. See also R.S. 15:457; Wharton on Criminal Evidence (12th Ed.), Sec. 591.

Mills Bill No. 7 was reserved to a question put to State's witness Moran, who was asked to identify certain federal wagering tax returns. The witness replied that he had not prepared the documents and knew nothing about them. According to the trial judge's per curiam

the witness did not identify the documents, and the question was withdrawn. This bill therefore presents nothing for us to review.

Mills Bill No. 13 and Vernaci Bill No. 5 were reserved to the admission in evidence of State Exhibits 1 through 6, which are the lottery paraphernalia seized by the police officers at the time of the arrest of the defendant Vernaci. As we have already pointed out in our summary of the important facts in this case, these lottery paraphernalia included a list giving the results of a lottery drawing for Thursday, October 21, showing the numbers drawn from the lottery wheel on that date, as well as other paraphernalia, some dated and some undated.

Mills takes the position that these exhibits were improperly filed in evidence under a bill of information charging the defendants with gambling on October 22. The answer to this contention is that these defendants are charged with gambling as a business which by its very nature is a continuing transaction. Thus this evidence was properly admitted to establish the charge of gambling as a business on October 22.[2] See Art. 446, La. Code Cr. Proc.; *State v. Behan*, 113 La. 754, 37 So. 714; *City of Shreveport v. Marx*, 148 La. 31, 86 So. 602; *State v. Wilde*, 214 La. 453, 38 So. 2d 72; *State v. Jouvet*, 224 La. 15, 68 So. 2d 741.

In *State v. Jouvet*, *supra*, a witness for the State was asked the question: "When you arrived in New Orleans on the 14th of January, did you play cards at the Gem Club?" Objection was made to this question on the

[2] Moreover, in these paraphernalia there were record sheets showing lottery plays or bets bearing the date October 22, the date of the offense as charged in the bill of information.

ground that the information alleged that the offense was committed on January 17 and not on January 14. The trial judge overruled the objection and held the question proper. This court in affirming his ruling said:

> " * * * The trial judge in his per curiam states that he admitted the testimony to show that the gambling was intentionally conducted as a business. The testimony is relevant for the purpose of showing the continuity of the offense, system, guilty knowledge and criminal intent. R.S. 15:445 and 15:446."

In Bill No. 5 Vernaci contends that the lottery paraphernalia introduced by the State were not identified as her property and were never connected with her, and so were inadmissible. There is no merit in this contention. The paraphernalia were seized in the presence of Vernaci in the room which she leased and occupied, while they were in her possession and under her control. Moreover, the exhibits were identified at the trial as the identical paraphernalia seized on this occasion by the arresting officers. Appellant's objection seems to us to go more to the weight to be given to the evidence than to the question of its admissibility.

Mills Bill No. 17 was taken to the overruling by the trial judge of Mills' exception to the jurisdiction of the Criminal District Court for the Parish of Orleans. According to the trial judge's per curiam this plea was presented to the court after all the evidence had been heard and the case submitted. The basis of the plea is that the evidence does not show that any offense has been committed by Mills in the Parish of Orleans, and that therefore venue of the case is improperly laid in that parish.

Since Mills did not avail himself of his right to have

the question of jurisdiction tested before going to trial, but filed this motion only after the evidence had been adduced and the case submitted to the trial judge for decision, the question of jurisdiction became a question of fact, and the sufficiency of the evidence establishing it cannot be reviewed on appeal. It is only where no evidence at all is submitted to establish venue that it may be inquired into by this court. *State v. Paternostro*, 224 La. 87, 68 So. 2d 767; Id., 225 La. 369, 73 So. 2d 177; *State v. Heiman*, 227 La. 235, 79 So. 2d 78.

In support of Bill No. 17 counsel for Mills argue that there are three essential elements of a lottery—consideration, prize, and chance—, and that the State must prove "*in limine* the situs of each element". This argument does not merit serious attention. Counsel evidently overlook the fact that these defendants were not charged with the conducting or operation of a lottery **as a crime.** They were charged with gambling as a business denounced by Article 90 of the Criminal Code, in that they conducted a lottery at 1229 Simon Bolivar Street in New Orleans. There is evidence in the record in this case to show that Mills and Vernaci committed the offense at that place, within the jurisdiction of the trial court. Consequently the question presented—the question of the sufficiency of that evidence—is one of fact which we cannot review.

Mills Bill No. 18 was reserved to the overruling of a motion for a new trial. In this motion Mills alleges that the verdict is contrary to the law and the evidence. It is well settled that a motion for a new trial based on the allegation that the verdict is contrary to the law and the evidence does not present anything for review. Defendant also alleges in support of this bill that the State

obtained the conviction solely on circumstantial evidence, that in order to convict on such evidence every reasonable hypothesis of innocence must be excluded, but that the evidence in this case fails to negative certain enumerated hypotheses of innocence. On this point the trial judge tells us in his per curiam, with which we fully agree, that "the contentions of defendant fall within the sufficiency of evidence rule", and they therefore present issues which this court will not review. The other reasons advanced for the granting of a new trial have already been discussed and disposed of in the course of this opinion.

Mills Bill No. 19 was reserved to the overruling of his motion in arrest of judgment. All questions presented by this motion have been fully answered in this opinion, and no further discussion is necessary.

Vernaci Bill No .4 was reserved in connection with a question asked of State's witness Hattie Tucker. The question was: "Before October 22, 1954, the date these police officers arrested Lena Vernaci, how long had she been using that room before that date?" Counsel for defendant objected to the question, stating that the offense was charged on October 22. The court overruled this objection, and this bill was reserved.

The trial judge in his per curiam tells us: "Proof of the length of time the defendant Lena Vernaci occupied the room, and any and all circumstances concerned with her occupancy was relevant. While neither the question, or the answer elicited from the witness, even remotely suggested criminality, even if it did, the testimony sought would have been relevant, to show that the defendant did engage **intentionally** in the conduct of

gambling as a **business** at the address 1229 Simon Bolivar Street." The judge cited numerous authorities which support his holding.

Vernaci Bill No. 6 was reserved to the overruling by the trial judge of her motion for a new trial, based principally on the allegation that there was no evidence to prove the offense. All of the testimony taken at the trial is in the record, which we have read. Contrary to appellant's contention, there is evidence to support the charge against each of these defendants, and, as we have already said, if any evidence whatsoever on the issue of the guilt or innocence of an accused is adduced before the trial court, the latter's judgment on its weight and sufficiency is final and not reviewable by this court.

Vernaci Bill No. 7 was reserved to the overruling by the trial judge of her motion in arrest of judgment. All questions presented by this motion have been fully answered in the course of this opinion in our discussion of bills reserved either by Mills or Vernaci.

In understanding and answering the contentions raised by defendants' many bills of exception, this court has been given able assistance by the per curiams of the trial judge. The judge set out and explained all the facts and circumstances in connection with each bill, and cited copious authority in support of his rulings on each point. These per curiams show careful study and hard work, and we are grateful for the help which the judge has thus afforded us.

The convictions and sentences are affirmed.

Fournet, C. J. Absent.

Monday Feb. 20, 1956

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

No. 42,664

STATE OF LOUISIANA
versus
MICHAEL CALLIA and GEORGE HABENEY

On Appeal from the Criminal District Court for the Parish of Orleans, Section "E". Honorable J. Bernard Cocke, Judge.

PONDER, JUSTICE.

The defendants are appealing from a conviction and sentence under a bill of information charging them with conducting the business of gambling in violation of R.S. 14:90 by the operation of a lottery at 3703 Third Street in the City of New Orleans.

During the course of the trial, there were thirty-five bills of exception taken to the rulings of the trial judge. These bills of exception were taken to the overruling of a motion for a bill of particulars, a motion to quash, a demurrer, a plea to the jurisdiction, objection to the admission of evidence, a motion for a new trial and a motion in arrest of judgment.

All of the questions raised in these bills of exception were raised and passed on in the case of *State v. Mills and Vernaci* bearing docket number 42,663 of this Court and handed down this day. It could serve no useful purpose to reiterate the questions raised and the conclusions

reached by this Court because the same conclusions would necessarily have to be reached in this case.

For the reasons assigned, the convictions and sentences are affirmed.

Fournet, C. J. Absent.

Moise, J. Absent.

APPENDIX B

Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 23, Section 1660:

"§ Employment records and reports; inspection by administrator.

Each employing unit shall keep true and accurate records, containing such information as the administrator may prescribe. Such records shall be open to inspection and be subject to being copied by the administrator or his authorized representatives at any time and as often as may be necessary. The administrator or an authorized representative may require from any employing unit any sworn report deemed necessary for the effective administration of this Chapter. Any member of the board of review, and any appeal tribunal referee, may require from any employing unit any sworn or unsworn reports, with respect to persons employed by it, which are deemed necessary for the effective administration of this Chapter. Information thus obtained, or obtained from any individual pursuant to the administration of this Chapter except to the extent necessary for the proper administration thereof, shall be held confidential and shall not be published or be open to public inspection (other than to public employees in the performance of their public duties) in any manner revealing the individual's or employing unit's identity, but any claimant (or his duly authorized representative) at a hearing before an appeal tribunal or the board of review shall be supplied with information from such records to the extent necessary for the proper presentation of his claim. Any employee or member of the board of review or any employee of the administrator who violates any provision of this section shall be fined not less than twenty dollars, nor more than

two hundred dollars, or imprisoned for not less than ten days nor more than ninety days, or both.

On orders of the administrator, any records or documents, received or maintained by him under the provisions of this Chapter, or rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, may be destroyed, under such safe-guards as will protect their confidential nature, two years after the date on which such records or documents last serve any useful, legal, or administrative purpose in the administration of this Chapter or in the protection of the rights of anyone."

Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 23, Section 1663:

"§ Protection against self-incrimination.

No person shall be excused from attending and testifying or from producing books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, and other records before the administrator, the board of review, an appeal tribunal referee, or any duly authorized representative of any of them, or in obedience to the subpoena of any of them in any cause or proceeding before them on the ground that the testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, required of him may tend to incriminate him or subject him to a penalty or forfeiture; but no individual shall be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter, or thing concerning which he is compelled, after having claimed his privilege against self-incrimination, to testify or produce evidence, documentary or otherwise, except for perjury committed in so testifying."